In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application. The status of each claim is indicated. Currently amended claims are shown with additions <u>underlined</u> and deletions in ~~strikethrough text~~. Claims 10-19 have been canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 21-37 are new. No matter has been added.

1.   (Original) A system for ensuring the identity and travel privileges of potential travelers, comprising:

a. at least one institution for researching and recording an identity and at least one travel privilege for individuals;

b. at least one database maintained by the institution for associating identified individuals' names, an assigned asymmetric key pair, and the at least one travel privilege, said at least one travel privilege including:

i. at least one destination restriction;

ii. at least one date and time restriction;

iii. at least one mode of transportation restriction;

iv. at least one operator restriction; and

v. an expiration date for each at least one travel privilege;

c. at least one travel privilege certificate associated with the at least one travel privilege and further associated with an identified individual; and

d. at least one personal identification device including a means for enrolling and authenticating individuals and managing travel privilege certificates.

2.   (Original) The system described in claim 1, wherein the travel privilege certificate comprises:

a. a name field, comprising the identified individual's full name;

b. a date field, comprising a date when the identified individual is allowed to travel;

c. a time field, comprising a time when the identified individual is allowed to travel;

d. a mode of transportation field, comprising a list of the modes of transportation that the identified individual is allowed to employ;

e. a type of privilege field, comprising the type of privilege signified by the travel privilege certificate;

f. an issue date field, comprising the date when the travel privilege certificate is issued;

g. an expiration date field, comprising the date when the travel privilege certificate is no longer valid;

h. a unique serial number; and

i. a digital signature created by the issuer of the travel privilege certificate.

3.   (Original) The system described in claim 2 wherein the list of the modes of transportation includes at least one mode selected from the group consisting of a train, a bus, a car, an airplane and a ship.

4.   (Original) The system described in claim 2 wherein the type of privilege is selected from the group consisting of a reservation ticket, a boarding pass, a port-of-entry permission and a vehicle operator permission.

5.   (Original) The system described in claim 1 wherein the database is formed by completing the following steps for each individual:

a. collecting a digital representation of the individual's handwritten signature;

b. collecting a digital photograph of the individual's face;

c. collecting a digital fingerprint template of the individual's fingerprint;

d. collecting personal identification credentials from the individual, including a birth certificate and a social security number;

e. verifying the identity of the individual by the following steps:

i. submitting the collected digital fingerprint template to the Federal Department of Criminal Justice database for review;

ii. submitting the collected birth certificate to the National Association of Public Health Services Information System database for review;

iii. submitting the collected social security number to the social security number database for review;

iv. submitting the individual's name and the collected social security number to the Immigration and Naturalization Service database for review;

v. submitting the individual's name and the collected digital photograph to a database of already-enrolled individuals' names and photographs for review;

j. determining if the individual is authorized to travel;

k. determining authorized destinations for the individual;

l. determining authorized travel times and durations for the individual;

m. determining authorized modes of transportation for the individual;

n. creating a digital certificate and an asymmetric key pair for the individual; and

o. adding the individual's name, the collected digital photograph, public key, a date-of-validity, and the determined privileges to the database of already-enrolled individuals.

6.   (Original) The system described in claim 1 wherein the means for enrolling and authenticating individuals and managing travel privilege certificates, comprises:

a. first download means for downloading at least one travel privilege certificate to said personal identification device;

b. transmission means for transmitting at least one travel privilege certificate from said personal identification device;

c. recording means for recording at least one notable event on said personal identification device;

d. first storage means for storing at least one travel privilege certificate on said personal identification device; and

e. second storage means for storing at least one application audit log on said personal identification device.

7.   (Original) The system described in claim 6, further comprising:

a. verification means for verifying an individual's personal identity prior to issuing the travel privilege certificate;

b. second download means for downloading a computing mechanism onto the personal identification device; and

c. third download means for downloading a digital certificate and asymmetric key pair for the individual into the personal identification device.

8.   (Currently Amended) The system described in claim 6 wherein an individual's request to complete a travel-related action is evaluated and fulfilled by the following steps:

a. authenticating the individual to the personal identification ~~apparatus~~ device;

b. verifying the date-of-validity of a stored digital certificate;

c. accessing a database of enrolled individuals, associated privileges, and public keys, and verifying the individual's ownership of the private key;

d. viewing the individual's assigned privileges in the database;

e. determining if the individual has at least one of any pre-existing notations, restrictions and provisos preventing the requested action;

f. determining additional, action-specific notations, restrictions and provisos;

g. creating a travel privilege certificate;

h. receiving the travel privilege certificate; and

i. storing the travel privilege certificate.

9.   (Currently Amended) The system described in claim 6 wherein the at least one travel privilege certificate is transmitted by the following steps:

a. authenticating the individual to the personal identification ~~apparatus~~ device;

b. verifying the date-of-validity of a stored digital certificate;

c. accessing a database of enrolled individuals, associated privileges, and public keys, and verifying the individual's ownership of the private key;

d. selecting the at least one travel privilege certificate for transmission;

e. digitally signing the at least one travel privilege certificate with a stored private key; and

f. transmitting the signed travel privilege certificate.

10-19. (Canceled)

20.   (Original) A system for monitoring and verifying the identity of a traveling individual, comprising:

a means for collecting identification information for each traveling individual, wherein the collected identification information includes at least one biometric characteristic for the individual;

a means for verifying the collected identification information;

a means for determining at least one travel privilege for the traveling individual;

a means for creating an electronic travel privilege certificate based on the determined at least one travel privilege;

a personal identification device;

a means for transmitting the electronic travel privilege certificate to the personal identification device; and

a means for reading the electronic travel privilege certificate from the personal identification device as necessary during the traveling individual's travel.

21.   (New) A processor-readable medium storing code representing instructions to cause a processor to perform a process, the code comprising code to:

authenticate, at a personal identification device, a biometric input from a user based on a biometric template stored at the personal identification device and associated with the user; and

send a request for a travel permission information from the personal identification device when the biometric input from the user is authenticated.

22.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 21, the code further comprising code to:

receive the biometric input from the user before the biometric input from the user is authenticated, the biometric input being at least one of a fingerprint information of the user, a retinal information of the user and an image information of the user.

23.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 21, wherein the request includes the biometric input from the user.

24.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 21, the code further comprising code to:

send an admission ticket information associated with the travel permission information when the biometric input from the user is authenticated.

25.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the travel permission information is associated with an admission ticket of a travel provider.

26.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the travel permission information includes at least one of a time restriction, a mode of transportation restriction, a destination restriction, a date restriction, an operator restriction, and an expiration date restriction.

27.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the travel permission information is encrypted based on an asymmetric key pair associated with a travel governing authority.

28.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 21, the code further comprising code to:

enroll the biometric template at an enrollment authority before the biometric input from the user is authenticated.

29.   (New) A processor-readable medium storing code representing instructions to cause a processor to perform a process, the code comprising code to:

receive a request for a travel permission information from a personal identification device associated with a user, the request including at least one a biometric information of the user or an authentication of the biometric information; and

send the travel permission information associated with the user when the biometric information is authenticated, the travel permission information being encrypted based on an asymmetric key pair.

30.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, the code further comprising code to:

produce the travel permission information based on the biometric information of the user before the travel permission information is sent.

31.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, the code further comprising code to:

obtain the travel permission information associated with the user from a database before the travel permission information is sent, the database including at least one personal identity credential for each user from a plurality of users, each user from the plurality of users being associated with at least one travel permission information.

32.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the request includes the biometric information of the user and excludes the authentication of the biometric information, the code further comprising code to:

authenticate, before the travel permission information is sent, the biometric information of the user.

33.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the request includes the biometric information of the user.

34.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the biometric information is a fingerprint information of the user, the code further comprising code to:

receive the fingerprint information of the user before the travel permission information is sent; and

authenticate, before the travel permission information is sent, the fingerprint information of the user.

35.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the travel permission information is sent to the personal identification device of the user.

36.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, the code further comprising code to:
        receive the travel permission information from an enrollment authority before the travel permission information is sent.

37.   (New) The processor-readable medium of claim 29, wherein the travel permission information includes at least one of a time restriction, a mode of transportation restriction, a destination restriction, a date restriction, an operator restriction, and an expiration date restriction.